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ABSTRACT

This summary lists the holdings of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library, which contains a variety of materials regarding education policy in the United States. Materials consist primarily of staff files created in the Ford White House between August 9, 1974, and January 20, 1977. A substantial amount of earlier materials is available in the Ford Congressional Papers. The topics documented include: (1) forced busing to achieve school desegregation; (2) federal aid to education topics; (3) discrimination on the basis of sex; (4) "work and education" initiative; (5) other topics such as education for the handicapped, Native American education, student aid, a White House Conference on Education, and White House liaison with the academic community. (EH)

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EDUCATION POLICY

A Summary of Manuscript and Audiovisual Holdings Available for Research February 1993

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The holdings of the Gerald R. Ford Library contain a variety of materials regarding education policy in the United States. Busing, federal aid, sex discrimination, and President Ford's education and work initiative are among the topics that are well-documented.

Available materials consist primarily of staff files created in the Ford White House between August 9, 1974 and January 20, 1977. A substantial amount of earlier material is available in the Ford Congressional Papers.

What topics are documented?

Forced busing to achieve school desegregation was an issue during the Ford administration both in general terms and in specific cases involving several school districts throughout the country. In November 1975 President Ford directed the Attorney General and the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) to make recommendations on school desegregation. His ultimate goal was to seek legislative remedies to minimize forced busing and to provide alternative means of solving school desegregation problems. The Departments of Justice and HEW completed a study, made recommendations to the President, and drafted legislation. After discussing the recommendations with Cabinet members, White House staff, members of Congress, and representatives of outside organizations, President Ford submitted the School Desegregation Standards and Assistance Act to Congress in June 1976. The proposed legislation did not receive a hearing in Congress.

Federal aid to education topics appear in various files relating to budget appropriations and specific pieces of legislation. One outgrowth

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of President Ford's budget review process for FY 1977 was his proposal to consolidate elementary and secondary education categorical grant programs into a single block grant to the states. After receiving proposals and input from HEW, the Office of Management and Budget, the Domestic Council, and concerned outside organizations, the President sent his consolidation proposal to Congress on March 1, 1976. A House subcommittee held hearings in June but no further action was taken in either the House or Senate.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 banned **discrimination on the basis of sex** in any education programs or activities that received federal financial assistance. The final HEW regulations for implementing Title IX were approved by President Ford on May 27, 1975. Although the impact of Title IX on intercollegiate athletics is perhaps the most colorful of the issues relating to the ban on sex discrimination, the amendment also addressed admissions policies, scholarships, housing, educational materials and curricula, hiring, benefits, and pensions. Prior to approving the HEW regulations President Ford reviewed drafts and comments prepared by HEW and White House staff and met with representatives of concerned organizations, including women's groups and NCAA coaches.

In a speech at Ohio State University on August 30, 1974, President Ford called for a "fusion of the realities of a work-a-day life with the teaching of academic institutions." The President then directed the Secretaries of HEW, Labor, and Commerce to make recommendations on how he could move ahead with his so-called **"work and education" initiative**. The ensuing activities resulted in the usual drafts of proposals, critiques of the proposals, and meetings with administration officials and other concerned individuals.

A **variety of other topics** relating to education policy may also be researched using Library holdings. Among these topics are education for the handicapped, Native American education, student aid, a White House Conference on Education, and White House liaison with the academic community.

The types of documents available for research on these topics include reports and background materials, legislative and policy proposals in several drafts, correspondence, memoranda, briefing papers for meetings, and drafts and final copies of presidential speeches and statements.

The Ford Congressional Papers also contain materials relating to **educational issues from 1963-1973**. These materials consist primarily of letters from private citizens and Congressman Ford's responses, newsletters sent out by Ford and other members of Congress, "Dear Colleague" letters, and texts of Ford's speeches, interviews, and other public statements. The predominant issues are busing, school prayer, aid to parochial schools, Title I (a formula for directing funds to school districts on the basis of the number of children from low-income families in the area), and the "Quie amendment" (a proposal for block grants to states rather than direct federal aid to local school districts).

Where is the material located?

Nearly 75% of all open collections are described in PRESNET, an automated database which indexes collections to the folder level. Nearly 90% of open Presidential and closely related collections are in PRESNET. In January 1993, a broadly-defined PRESNET search for material on education yielded 625 "hits" in 76 collections. Search reports on more narrowly defined subjects, as well as this larger search, are available upon request.

The main collections identified by PRESNET for research on education policy topics are the respective files of Domestic Council staff member David Lissy and director James Cannon, White House Records Office Legislation Case Files, White House Special Files Unit File and several categories in White House Central Files Subject File. The transcript of an interview with David Lissy in the Hyde and Wayne Oral History Collection gives important context for the Lissy Files. Other collections are less comprehensive, but they may be as strong or stronger on particular issues.

Among open collections not yet in PRESNET, the files of the special assistants to the President for women's programs, Patricia Lindh and Jeanne Holm, and the microfilm of HEW Secretary David F. Mathews Papers may also be useful. The Lindh and Holm Files are particularly relevant to the topic of sex discrimination and Title IX. Researchers must obtain advance written permission from the Curator of Special Collections at the University of Alabama to use the Mathews microfilm. The Ford Congressional and Vice Presidential Papers are not described in PRESNET.

Audiovisual materials

The Library's audiovisual holdings include still photographs, motion picture films, videotapes, and audiotapes. Researchers have access to still photographs of signing ceremonies and meetings, Naval Photographic Center film of daily events at the White House, videotapes of network news broadcasts, and audiotapes of Presidential speeches and briefings by the White House Press Office.

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